

REMARKS

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 9, 10, 24, 25, 27, 37, 38, 40-42, 44-46, 48, 50 and 52-54 have been allowed. Applicant submits that reasons in addition to those presented by the Examiner exist for the allowance of the claims.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 9-12, 24-27, 33, 34 and 37-54 are all the claims pending in the application, and currently claims 11, 12, 26, 33, 34, 39, 43, 47, 49 and 51 stand rejected.

35 U.S.C. § 101 Rejection – Claim 49:

Claim 49 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicant has amended the claim as shown in the previous section to address the Examiner's concerns and hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection of these claims. In view of such amendment, Applicant submits that claim 49 is now in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejection – Claims 12 and 34:

Claims 12 and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,377,359 to Higashio.

As shown in the previous section, Applicant has amended the claims to incorporate the limitations of original claims 12 and 34, respectively, which were indicated as allowable in the October 7, 2005. In particular, Applicant has amended claims 12 and 34 to recite, “wherein the image data are managed on a storage device differently from the parameter.” Accordingly, Applicant submits that these claims are allowable for the reasons previously indicated.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection – Claims 11, 26, 33, 39, 43, 47 and 51:

Claims 11, 26, 33, 39, 43, 47 and 51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Higashio in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,344,907 to Watanabe et al. In view of the following discussion, Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejection. However, Applicant has amended these claims to be dependent upon a respective allowable independent claim. Therefore, Applicant submits that claims 11, 26, 33, 39, 43, 47 and 51 are now patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Conclusion:

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
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Respectfully submitted,

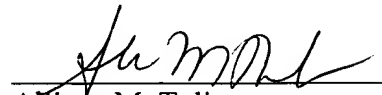
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